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NSC/S NIO

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DIST 31 MAY 1974

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1. THERE IS A GENERAL CONSENSUS AMONG CHILEAN ARMY GENERALS THAT THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF THE TRIALS OF LEADERS OF THE ALLENDE GOVERNMENT, WHO WERE UNTIL RECENTLY HELD ON DAWSON ISLAND, IS TO POINT OUT THE BASIC DISHONESTY AND IMMORALITY OF THE FORMER GOVERNMENT AS PERSONIFIED BY THOSE ON TRIAL. THE JUNTA'S INTENTION IS NOT TO LEVY POLITICAL CHARGES, NOR TO CARRY OUT ANY DEATH SENTENCES AS RETRIBUTION, WHICH WOULD IN EFFECT CREATE INSTANT MARTYRS. THE INTENTION IS TO DISCREDIT TO THE GREATEST DEGREE POSSIBLE THE INDIVIDUALS AND THE GOVERNMENT THEY REPRESENTED BY PROVING ILLEGAL ACTS SUCH AS EMBEZZLEMENT, EXTORTION, ILLEGAL

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE

DATE JUN 11 1999

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USE OF FUNDS AND GENERAL MISUSE OF THE PUBLIC TRUST OF CHILEANS.

2. THE ARMY GENERALS AGREE THAT THE DAWSON ISLAND GROUP SHOULD ALL RECEIVE PRISON TERMS AND NOT EXILE, AND THAT THE HARSHEST SENTENCE SHOULD GO TO DANIEL V ERGARA, FORMER UNDER SECRETARY OF INTERIOR, WHO WILL PROBABLY RECEIVE AT LEAST A 20-YEAR PRISON TERM. THE GENERALS ARE EQUALLY CONVINCED OF THE NEED FOR STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH THE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE DURING WARTIME, WHICH INCLUDES THE CONCEPT OF PAROLE AFTER SERVING HALF A PRISON SENTENCE IF GOOD BEHAVIOR HAS BEEN FOLLOWED.

3. SENIOR ARMY OFFICERS ARE COMING TO BELIEVE THAT THE BEST MEANS OF COPING WITH THE RESIDUAL STRENGTHS OF THE FORMER POPULAR UNITY (U.P.) PARTIES AND THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDC) IS TO MAINTAIN THE CURRENT BAN ON POLITICAL ACTIVITY BUT TO ALLOW THE CONTINUED INVOLVEMENT OF PDC AND LEFTIST MILITANTS IN POLITICALLY-RELATED JOBS. FOR EXAMPLE, MOST PDC AND FORMER U.P. BASE LEVEL LABOR LEADERS CONTINUE ON WITH THEIR JOBS AND WORK DIRECTLY WITH LOCAL MILITARY AUTHORITIES IN RESOLVING LABOR ISSUES. IN SOME PROVINCIAL AREAS THIS APPROACH HAS HAD GOOD RESULTS.

4. SENIOR LEVEL OFFICERS ARE AWARE THAT THE PDC WANTS TO

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MAINTAIN ITS PURPOSELY VAGUE POSITION AS NEITHER A PARTNER
NOR OPEN FOE OF THE JUNTA GOVERNMENT. THIS POSITION EQUALLY
SUITS THE MILITARY, WHO DO NOT WISH AN OPEN BREAK WITH THE PDC,
BUT WHO WILL NOT PERMIT OPEN POLITICAL ACTIVITY. MILITARY LEADERS
UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, THAT THE PDC FEELS IT MUST MAINTAIN ITS
POPULAR BASE AND THAT IT WILL THEREFORE CONTINUE TO TAKE THE
RISKS INHERENT IN VIOLATING THE POLITICAL RECESS,

5. [REDACTED]

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